

Current State Hazard Mitigation Program Priorities

1. Acquisition/Relocation or Demolition and Elevation of Flood Prone Properties

Elevation and Acquisition/demolition type projects will be considered as a priority. If this type project is selected, adherence to Federal and State directives including but not limited to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Desk Reference (FEMA 345) and the Property Acquisition Handbook for Communities (FEMA 317) will be required. Priority should be given to repetitive loss properties.

2. Community Shelters ,Shelters for Schools and Public Buildings

Protecting school children from tornadoes is a top initiative for the State of Kansas. Following the May 1999 tornado, the State Hazard Mitigation team determined construction of school shelters should always be an HMGP consideration. To design a successful shelter the criteria provided in FEMA 361, *Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters* must be followed.

Shelter space should contain the following safety type equipment, flashlights, fire extinguisher appropriate for use in a closed environment with human occupancy, first aid kits, battery operated NOAA weather radio, battery operated radio for commercial broadcasts, extra batteries, and the shelter operations plan. Shelter owner should refer to FEMA 361, Chapter 9 for other recommended equipment/supplies to assist in determining their specific needs.

3. Power Line Upgrades

Strengthening power distribution systems for rural electric cooperatives and city owned utilities are essential to reducing suffering, economic loss and reliance on generator power. Consideration will be given to these type projects with the affected counties having first priority.

4. Protection of Critical Facilities

Protection of critical facilities, infrastructure and utility systems will minimize the vulnerability of the people, property, environment and economy of Kansas and its communities from natural and manmade hazards.

5. 5% (Set Aside) Initiatives

Early hazard warning is essential to reducing potential injury and losses. Reverse 911 systems and other early warning systems and equipment to improve warning notifications, mapping related to initiatives, GIS software and equipment, generators, etc.

6. 7% Planning

Up to 7% of the HMGP grant may be used to develop State, Tribal and/or local mitigation plans to meet the planning criteria outlined in 44 CFR Part 201.